

The News reviewed the county's letters to Grant after filing three open records requests with Kent County over multiple months.

In one application, Grant reported that a business named Game Plan Lifestyle Planner, which marketed day-planner books online, had \$4,250 in sales in December 2019, three months before COVID-19 hit Michigan.

But in an application for a separate business, called Mini Mogul Group, Grant's tax filings revealed only \$205 in sales for Game Plan Lifestyle Planner for all of 2019, according to the letter from the county's lawyer to her.

In the Jan. 19, 2023, letter, the county demanded an explanation from Grant by Feb. 2, 2023. On March 24, 2023, a lawyer for the county wrote again to Grant, saying she had "not provided any information despite multiple requests."

"Consequently, if we do not receive a substantive response addressing this discrepancy by Friday, March 31, we will need to discuss the return of the \$5,000 in grant funds for Game Plan Lifestyle Planner to Kent County pursuant to the terms of the grant agreement," wrote Matthew T. Nelson, an attorney with the law firm Warner Norcross + Judd.

Eventually, Grant informed Nelson on May 2, 2023, four months after becoming a state legislator, that she had "revised" her 2019 tax filings, apparently to reflect the larger sales amount in 2019, according to an email obtained by The News through an open records request.

Grant is a member of the House Tax Policy Committee, which crafts tax-related legislation and policy.

The county allowed her to keep the COVID recovery funds despite her previously signing documents in which she promised that the information in her applications was true.

"The good news is that we shouldn't have to ask for the money back as long as you told the truth on the grant application," said the agreement Grant signed in order to get the \$5,000.

Womack, the former Kent County commissioner who ran against Grant for the state House in 2022, said the county's handling of the situation showed favoritism benefiting an elected state lawmaker, and he demanded that Grant return the \$15,000.

Womack said the county's main lawyer, Linda Howell, privately questioned him at one point about how the county would look going after a Democratic lawmaker when Democrats were